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Timothy Sheline Sentenced to Life in Prison With Possibility of Parole in 20 Years for the 2007 Murder of Fairview Park Woman

CLEVELAND – Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley announced that Timothy Sheline was sentenced today to life with the possibility of parole in 20 years for the murder of Gwendolyn Bewley.

On August 29, 2007, Fairview Park police responded to a house fire on W. 220 Street. Upon arrival, they found the home's front and back doors were locked. Firefighters forced entry into the home and when they attacked the flames in the kitchen, they found the homeowner, 67-year-old Bewley dead on the floor. It appeared that Bewley had been murdered and the fire was set to destroy the evidence.

Sheline, now 67, lived next door to the victim. He befriended her several months prior to the crime. The investigation by Fairview Park police discovered that Sheline made unauthorized purchases with the victim's credit card and Paypal account.

In 2009, Sheline was convicted on charges of theft and served a 3 ½ year sentence. There was not enough evidence to charge him for Bewley's death.

Sheline was indicted in 2014, after investigators, with the assistance of the FBI, used new technology to pull cellphone records. They were able to disprove Sheline's alibi that he was out-of-state. Investigators were able to place him within miles of Bewley's home.

After a 12-day trial, a Cuyahoga County jury found Sheline guilty of Murder and Aggravated Arson.

This case made national news and was featured in the television show *Cold Justice*.

“Through the dogged efforts of Fairview Police, investigators, State Fire Marshall's Office, and the FBI, this case has finally come to a conclusion,” said Prosecutor O'Malley. “Sheline received the sentenced he deserves and we hope the Bewley family can begin to heal and move forward from this tragic event.” ###

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